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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/720,508

11/24/2003

Myrtle Lee Mims

MIMS-3698

4598

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01/08/2007

GFD PATENTS, LLC

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EXAMINER

CORBIN, ARTHUR L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1761

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS

01/08/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/720,508

Applicant(s)

MIMS, MYRTLE LEE

Examiner

Arthur L. Corbin

Art Unit

1761

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10-25-06.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-11 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 112403.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____.

1. Claims 1-11 stand withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on October 25, 2006. Applicant's traversal has been considered but is not convincing. Since different subclasses need to be searched for each group of claims, a serious burden would be placed upon the PTO in order to examine all of the pending claims in this application. Further, to support the restriction requirement, it is not necessary to document that the other and materially different process produces a product equivalent to that claimed by applicant, as applicant may believe. Where in the rules or MPEP is such a requirement discussed?

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 12-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 12-22 are indefinite in reciting "a mouthful test" (claim 1, line 3) since this term is relative without any clear meaning in the art and it is not known which test is intended. Claim 16 is indefinite in reciting "may consist of", which should be changed to "is selected from". Claim 19 is indefinite in reciting "my comprise of", which should be changed to "is selected from". Also, in claim 19, "a" should be changed to "the". There is no antecedent basis in claim 12 for "the container" (claim 18), which can be corrected by changing "container" to "receptacle". Claim 21 is

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indefinite in reciting "has an appearance" since it is not understood how a mouthfeel test can affect appearance. Corrections are required without new matter.

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 12–22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over each of the following articles cited by applicant: Mai Mai Sweet Potato Pie, Sweet Potato Pie No. 2750, Mai Mai Sweet Potato Pie No. 2298, Sweet Potato Pie by Ceideburg or Sweet Potato Pie (From My Garden). Each article discloses applicant's claimed composition and receptacle, including a dough product and a pie tray, which is often aluminum. Finding the optimum amount of each component in the composition and the optimum shape of the receptacle would require nothing more than routine experimentation by one reasonably skilled in this art. The mouthfeel, appearance and taste of each sweet potato pie in the articles is obviously well liked by some consumers and would have a number within applicant's claimed range or else the recipe would not have been published. Further, new recipes or formulas which involve addition or elimination of common ingredients, or for treating them in ways which differ from former practice, do not amount to invention merely because it is not disclosed that no one else ever did what applicant did. Applicant must establish coaction or cooperative

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relationship between ingredients which produces a new, unexpected and useful function. (In re Levin, 84 USPQ 232).

6. Claims 12-15 and 17-22 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over No-Crust Sweet Potato Pie. The article discloses applicant's claimed composition and a pie plate, which is often aluminum. Also, see the last four sentences in paragraph no. 5 above.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Arthur L. Corbin whose telephone number is (571) 272-1399. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 10:30 AM to 8:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Milton I. Cano, can be reached on (571) 272-1398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Arthur L. Corbin
Primary Examiner
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1-3-07